Appl. No. 09/665,763
Amdt. Dated: September 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: March 11, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 9 presently on file under 35 USC 103a as unpatentable over Patent No. 5,781,723 to Yee in view of US Patent No.6,233,577 to Ramasubramani.

As noted by the Examiner, the reference to Yee does not show the secure token receiving the request from the application, and the certificate being signed and sent to a correspondent. The Examiner relies upon the Ramasubramani patent to teach a certificate manager module (CMM) which he equates to the missing integers of claims 1 and 7. As noted by the Examiner, the CMM fetches the needed certificates from a database and assigns the certificates to the particular account. However, this is not the structure recited in claim 1.

In claim 1, the certificate is associated with the token and upon the receipt of the request authenticates the validity of the request through the CA. This is not the same as instructing the CA to fetch a certificate from a database and attribute it to this particular transaction. The CMM simply retains a store of new certificates but does not attempt to validate those certificates upon a request being received and does not sign the message with its private key to indicate the validity of the certificate.

Accordingly, the combination suggested by the Examiner does not teach the system or method claimed in claims 1 and 7 respectively. As such, it is believed that the combination of references made by the Examiner could not render the claimed subject matter obvious and accordingly are believed to be in condition for allowance.

As a balance of the claims depend directly or indirectly upon claims 1 or 7, it is believed that they also define patentable subject matter and overcome the combination of references cited by the Examiner. Further consideration and action to allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

9/13/04

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